

Testimony for the Appropriations Committee  
On the Governor's proposed budget  
**DMHAS expenditures and recommendations**  
February 18, 2016

Good evening Senator Beth Bye, and Representative Toni Walker, Co-Chairs; and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Leigh Busby and I am a registered voter in the town of New Haven CT.

I am here to testify on H.B No. 5044 An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

I am opposed to any proposed cuts to DMHAS and any mental health services and supports, as well as housing supports and services, legal services, home and community-based services and any grants for substance abuse services.

These services are vital for those of us who need them. I myself benefit from services provided to me through Cornell Scott Hill Health center and Fellowship Place in New Haven which gives me the tools I need to manage my personal issues. They provide a source of stability as well as opportunities to socialize with peers and the community at large. Through programs like Fellowship Place "Artship Program" I have been able to interact with others I would not likely otherwise interact with except through this program. My art has been displayed at places like New Haven Lawn Club and "CWOS". Since excepting my disability I returned to counseling and am getting the legal representation that I need to obtain Social Security disability and I now live in a HUD Housing complex and am no longer homeless.